OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

HIS MAJESTIES SPEECH DELIVERED THE Twenty second of *January*, 1643.

TO THE

MEMBERS OF THE TWO HOUSES OF

PARLIAMENT

AT

OXFORD.

Printed at the Humble request of the Lords, and Members of the House of Commons Assembled at *Oxford*,

By *Leonard Lichfield*, Printer to the Vniversity.

1643.

Of Wilson, G May's buildings 233 - One

Charles I

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HIS MAIESTIES SPEECH

Delivered the twenty second of *January*, 1643.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

WHEN I consider your publique Interests and Concernments in the happinesse and honour of this Nation, and your particular sufferings in this Rebellion, for your affection and Loyalty to Me; I must look upon you as the most competent Considerers and Counsellours

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ſellours how to Manage and improve the Condition We are all in: for ſure our condition is ſo equall, that the ſame violence hath oppreſſed Us all.

I have therefore called you together to be witneſſes of my Actions, and privy to My Intentions; and certainly if I had the leaſt thought, diſagreeing with the happineſſe and ſecurity of this Kingdome, I would not adviſe with ſuch Counſellors, and I doubt not but your Concurrence with Me will ſo farre prevaile over the hearts and underſtandings of this whole Kingdome, (who muſt looke upon you as perſons naturally and originally truſted by and for them) that it will be above the reach and malice of thoſe who have hitherto had too great an influence upon the People, to diſcredit my moſt entire Actions, and ſincere Promiſes; you will be the beſt Witneſſes for the one, and ſecurity for the other.

Very many of you can beare Mee witneſſe with what unwillingneſſe I ſuffered

My ſelfe firſt to take up theſe defenſive Armes; indeed with ſo great, that I was firſt almoſt in the power of thoſe who in two ſet Battails, have ſufficiently informed the World how tender they have been of the ſafety of My Perſon. I foreſaw not only the rage and oppreſſion which would every day breake out upon My Subjects, as the malice of theſe ill men increaſed, & their purpoſes were detected; but alſo the great inconveniences My beſt Subjects would ſuffer even by My owne Army, raiſed and kept for their preſervation and protection; for I was not ſo ill a Souldier, as not to foreſee how impoſſible it was to keep a ſtrict diſcipline, I being to ſtruggle with ſo many defects and neceſſities; & I aſſure you the ſenſe I have of their ſufferings, who deſerve well of Me, by My Forces, hath been a greater greife to Me then any thing for My own particular. My hope was, that either by ſucceſſe on My part, or Repentance on theirs, God would have put a ſhort end to this great

storme. But Guilt and Despaire have made these Men more wicked, then I imagine they at first intended to be; for instead of removing and reconciling these bloudy distractions, and restoring Peace to this languishing Country, they have invited a Forraigne Power to invade this Kingdom, and that in your names, and challenge this Invasion from them as a debt to the Common-Wealth. You (My Lords) have, like your selves (as good *Patriots*) expressed your dissent, and vindicated your selves from that imputation: and I doubt not but you (Gentlemen) will let your Countries know, how farre you are from desiring such Assistance, and how absolute and peremptory a breach this raising of Armes of My *Scots* Subjects is of that Pacification, which was so lately and solemnely made by you, and can intend nothing but a Conquest of you and your Lawes. I shall send you all the advertisements I have of that busines which is threatned from *Scotland*, and what is already acted from thence;

and

and ſhall deſire your ſpeedy advice and aſſiſtance what is to be ſaid or done, both with reference to this, and that Kingdome.

Our ends being the ſame, I am ſure there will be no other difference in the way, then what upon debate and right underſtanding will be eaſily adjuſted. Let our Religion (in which We are all moſt nearly concerned, and without care of which We muſt not looke for God's bleſſing) be vindicated and preſerved; Let My Honour and Rights (which you find to have an inſeparable relation with your owne intereſts) be vindicated and reſtored; Let your Liberties, Properties, Priviledges (without which I would not be your King) be ſecured and confirmed, and there is nothing you can adviſe me to, I will not meet you in, and I doubt not We ſhall together inform Poſterity, how much our truſt and confidence in each other, is a better expedient for the Peace and preſervation of the Kingdom, then Feares & Jealouſies.

I

I shall keep you no longer from consulting together, then in telling you, that I have prepared fit places for your Meetings, to which I desire you to repaire this night; assuring you, That I will be alwaies ready to receive any thing from you, admitting you to Me, or comming to you My Selfe, whensoever you shall desire. And so God direct you the best way.

FINIS.